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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A method of managing the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the method comprising:

providing a storefront database including secure area inventory information;

10 providing a storefront server operably coupled to the storefront database and operably coupled to the computer network;

coupling a customer client to the storefront server via the computer network;

receiving secure area part reception information by the storefront server from the customer client via the computer network;

20 updating the secure area inventory information by the storefront server using the secure area part reception information;

receiving secure area part issuing information by the storefront server from the customer client via the computer network; and

25 updating the secure area inventory information by the storefront server using the secure area part issuing information.

30 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure area is located at a site controlled by the customer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure area is located at a neutral site.

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4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating by the storefront server a new part invoice  
5 when a new part is being issued according to the secure  
area part issuing information; and

generating by the storefront server a fixed price  
invoice for rebuilding a rotatable part core when a rotatable  
part is being issued according to the secure area part  
10 issuing information.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the storefront database is  
a neutral database.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a customer profile database including  
customer document customization information associated with  
customer identification information;

receiving by the storefront server from the customer  
client via the computer network customer identification  
20 information;

retrieving by the storefront server from the customer  
profile database customization information using the  
customer identification information; and

25 generating by the storefront server customized  
documents using the customization information.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving by the storefront server from the customer  
client via the communications network core return  
30 information including a quantity of cores returned;

incrementing a core credit by the quantity of cores  
returned;

receiving by the storefront server from the customer  
client via the communications network rotatable part issue  
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information including a quantity of rotatable parts to issue; and  
updating the secure area information if the quantity  
5 of rotatable parts to issue is not greater than the core  
credit quantity.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

10 storing in-transit shipment information in the  
storefront database, the in-transit shipment information  
including a waybill number from a carrier for accessing  
shipment status information from a carrier Web server;

receiving by the storefront server from a client via  
the computer network an in-transit shipment query; and

generating by the storefront server an in-transit  
document including a hypertext link to the carrier Web  
server, the hypertext link comprising the waybill number.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

20 maintaining by the storefront server in the storefront  
database a history of part transactions for a secure area;

receiving by the storefront server a part transaction  
history request from a client via the computer network, the  
part transaction history request including a part number;  
25 and

generating by the storefront server a part history  
report document using the history of part transactions and  
the part number.

30 10. The method of claim 9, the part history report document  
further including a link to an alternatively formatted part  
history report document.

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11. A method of managing the transfer of rotatable parts stored  
in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer  
5 network, the method comprising:

providing a storefront database including secure area  
inventory information, the secure area inventory  
information including a customer rotatable part core credit  
quantity;

10 providing a storefront server operably coupled to the  
storefront database and operably coupled to the computer  
network;

coupling a customer client to the storefront server  
via the computer network;

receiving rotatable part core shipping information by  
the storefront server from the customer client via the  
computer network, the rotatable part core shipping  
information including a quantity of rotatable part cores  
shipped by the customer to the supplier;

20 incrementing the customer rotatable part core credit by  
the quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the customer  
to the supplier;

receiving secure area rotatable part issuing  
information by the storefront server from the customer  
client via the computer network, the secure area rotatable  
part issuing information including a quantity of rotatable  
25 parts to be issued;

comparing the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued  
to the customer rotatable part core credit; and

30 terminating a rotatable part issue transaction if the  
quantity of rotatable parts to be issued is greater than the  
customer rotatable part core credit.

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12. A method of managing the transfer of parts stored in a  
secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer  
5 network, the method comprising:

providing a storefront database including secure area  
inventory information, the secure area inventory  
information including in-transit and secure area on-hand  
inventory information;

10 providing a storefront server operably coupled to the  
storefront database and operably coupled to the computer  
network;

coupling a client to the storefront server via the  
computer network;

15 receiving by the storefront server from the client via  
the computer network a secure area inventory query request;

generating a secure area inventory report document  
including the in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory  
information.

20 13. The method of Claim 12, the secure area inventory report  
document further including a link to an alternatively  
formatted secure area inventory report document.

25 14. A data processing system adapted to manage transfer of  
parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer  
via a computer network, comprising:

a processor; and

30 a memory operably coupled to the processor and having  
program instructions stored therein, the processor being  
operable to execute the program instructions, the program  
instructions including:

receiving secure area part reception information  
by the data processing system from a customer client  
35 via a computer network;

updating secure area inventory information stored  
on a storefront database by the data processing system  
5 using the secure area part reception information;

receiving secure area part issuing information by  
the data processing system from the customer client  
via the computer network; and

10 updating the secure area inventory information by  
the data processing system using the secure area part  
issuing information.

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the secure  
area is located at a site controlled by the customer.

16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the secure  
area is located at a neutral site.

17. The data processing system of claim 14, the program  
instructions further including:

generating by the data processing system a new part  
invoice when a new part is being issued according to the  
secure area part issuing information; and

20 generating by the data processing system a fixed price  
25 invoice for rebuilding a rotatable part core when a rotatable  
part is being issued according to the secure area part  
issuing information.

18. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the  
30 storefront database is a neutral database.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, the program  
instructions further including:

receiving by the data processing system from the  
customer client via the computer network customer  
5 identification information;

accessing a customer profile database including  
customer document customization information associated with  
customer identification information;

10 retrieving by the data processing system from the  
customer profile database customization information using  
the customer identification information; and

generating by the data processing system customized  
documents using the customization information.

15 20. The data processing system of claim 14, the program  
instructions further including:

receiving by the data processing system from the  
customer client via the communications network core return  
information including a quantity of cores returned;

20 incrementing a core credit by the quantity of cores  
returned;

25 receiving by the data processing system from the  
customer client via the communications network rotatable part  
issue information including a quantity of rotatable parts to  
issue; and

updating the secure area information if the quantity  
of rotatable parts to issue is not greater than the core  
credit quantity.

30 21. The data processing system of Claim 14, the program  
instructions further including:

35 storing in-transit shipment information in the  
storefront database, the in-transit shipment information  
including a waybill number from a carrier for accessing  
shipment status information from a carrier Web server; and

receiving by the data processing system from a client  
via the computer network an in-transit shipment query; and  
5 generating by the data processing system an in-transit  
document including a hypertext link to the carrier Web  
server, the hypertext link comprising the waybill number.

22. The data processing system of claim 14, the program  
10 instructions further including:

maintaining by the data processing system in the  
storefront database a history of part transactions for a  
secure area;

receiving by the data processing system a part  
transaction history request from a client via the computer  
network, the part transaction history request including a  
part number; and

generating by the data processing system a part  
history report document using the history of part  
transactions and the part number.

23. The data processing system of claim 22, the part history  
report document further including a link to an  
alternatively formatted part history report document.

24. A data processing system adapted to manage transfer of  
rotable parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a  
customer via a computer network, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having  
program instructions stored therein, the processor being  
operable to execute the program instructions, the program  
instructions including:



receiving rotatable part core shipping information  
by the data processing system from a customer client  
5 via a computer network, the rotatable part core shipping  
information including a quantity of rotatable part cores  
shipped by the customer to the supplier;

incrementing a customer rotatable part core credit  
by the quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the  
10 customer to the supplier;

receiving secure area rotatable part issuing  
information by the data processing system from the  
customer client via the computer network, the secure  
area rotatable part issuing information including a  
15 quantity of rotatable parts to be issued;

comparing the quantity of rotatable parts to be  
issued to the customer rotatable part core credit; and

terminating a rotatable part issue transaction if  
the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued is greater  
20 than the customer rotatable part core credit.

25. A data processing system adapted to manage transfer of  
parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer  
via a computer network, comprising:

25 a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having  
program instructions stored therein, the processor being  
operable to execute the program instructions, the program  
instructions including:

30 receiving by the data processing system from a  
client via the computer network a secure area  
inventory query request;

accessing a storefront database in response to  
the secure area inventory query request, the  
35 storefront database including secure area inventory

information including in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information;

5 generating a secure area inventory report document including the in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information.

10 26. The data processing system of Claim 25, the secure area inventory report document further including a link to an alternatively formatted secure area inventory report document.

20 27. A computer readable media embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to manage the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the computer instructions comprising:

receiving secure area part reception information by the computer from a customer client via a computer network;

25 updating secure area inventory information stored in a storefront database by the computer using the secure area part reception information;

receiving secure area part issuing information by the computer from the customer client via the computer network; and

30 updating the secure area inventory information by the computer using the secure area part issuing information.

28. The computer readable media of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

35 generating by the computer a new part invoice when a new part is being issued according to the secure area part issuing information; and

generating by the computer a fixed price invoice for rebuilding a rotatable part core when a rotatable part is being issued according to the secure area part issuing information.

29. The computer readable media of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

receiving by the computer from the customer client via the computer network customer identification information;

accessing by the computer a customer profile database including customer document customization information associated with customer identification information;

retrieving by the computer from the customer profile database customization information using the customer identification information; and

generating by the computer customized documents using the customization information.

30. The computer readable media of claim of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

receiving by the computer from the customer client via the communications network core return information including a quantity of cores returned;

incrementing a core credit by the quantity of cores returned;

receiving by the computer from the customer client via the communications network rotatable part issue information including a quantity of rotatable parts to issue; and

updating the secure area information if the quantity of rotatable parts to issue is not greater than the core credit quantity.

31. The computer readable media of claim of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

5 storing in-transit shipment information in the storefront database, the in-transit shipment information including a waybill number from a carrier for accessing shipment status information from a carrier Web server; and  
10 receiving by the computer from a client via the computer network an in-transit shipment query; and  
generating by the computer an in-transit document including a hypertext link to the carrier Web server, the hypertext link comprising the waybill number.

32. The computer readable media of claim of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

15 maintaining by the computer in the storefront database a history of part transactions for a secure area;  
receiving by the computer a part transaction history request from a client via the computer network, the part transaction history request including a part number; and  
20 generating by the computer a part history report document using the history of part transactions and the part number.

25 33. The computer readable media of claim 32, the part history report document further including a link to an alternatively formatted part history report document.

30 34. A computer readable media embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to manage the transfer of rotatable parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the computer  
35 instructions comprising:

receiving rotatable part core shipping information  
by the computer from a customer client via the  
5 computer network, the rotatable part core shipping  
information including a quantity of rotatable part cores  
shipped by the customer to the supplier;

incrementing a customer rotatable part core credit  
by the quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the  
10 customer to the supplier;

receiving secure area rotatable part issuing  
information by the computer from the customer client  
via the computer network, the secure area rotatable part  
issuing information including a quantity of rotatable  
5 parts to be issued;

comparing the quantity of rotatable parts to be  
issued to the customer rotatable part core credit; and

terminating a rotatable part issue transaction if  
the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued is greater  
10 than the customer rotatable part core credit.

35. A computer readable media embodying computer program  
instructions for execution by a computer, the computer  
program instructions adapting a computer to manage the  
25 transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to  
a customer via a computer network, the computer  
instructions comprising:

receiving by the computer from a client via the  
computer network a secure area inventory query  
30 request;

generating a secure area inventory report  
document including the in-transit and secure area on-  
hand inventory information.

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36. The computer readable media of claim 35, the secure area  
inventory report document further including a link to an  
5 alternatively formatted secure area inventory report  
document.

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